



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

The Sanitary Inspector

FOR

Beaconsfield Urban District

for the year 1938.

BEACONSFIELD :
THE EXCELSIOR PRINTING WORKS, 24, AYLESBURY END.



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WOODMUIR,
CLIFTON ROAD,
AMERSHAM.

July, 1939.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour and pleasure of submitting to you my Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the Urban District of Beaconsfield for the year 1938.

The national vital statistics for the year are noticeable for an increase in the birth rate and a decrease in the death rate, including infantile mortality rate. These improvements are reflected in the local statistics, as well as those for the County, with the exception of the local birth rate, which shows a slight decrease on that of 1938 ; but, as I have mentioned in a previous report, the low figures in a small area like Beaconsfield, do not enable correct deductions to be made from percentages.

I should like to express again my appreciation and gratitude for the assistance so willingly granted to me by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. John H. Crosby, and for the continued consideration and help received from yourselves.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT C. GUBBINS.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE REPORT.

Staff.

A. General and Vital Statistics.

Area.
Population.
Rateable Value.
Births and Deaths.

B. General Health Services.

Ambulance.
Nursing.
Clinic and Hospitals.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.
Drainage and Sewerage.
Closet Accommodation.
Sanitary Inspector's Report.

D. Housing.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.
Meat and other Foods—Bakelhouses, etc.

F. Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases, with Statistics.

G. Cancer—Statistics.

Staff.

Medical Officer of Health.

Robert C. Gubbins, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.

John H. Crosby, F.I.S.E., F.I.A.S., M.R.S.I.

A.1. General Statistics.

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Area (acres) of District | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,293 |
| Population (Census of 1931) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4,843 |
| Registrar-General's estimate (mid 1938) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5,506 |
| Rateable Value of Area | ... | ... | ... | ... | £75,462 |
| Sum represented by 1d. rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | £300 |
| No. of Houses occupied, according to rate-books | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,664 |

2. Vital Statistics.**Birth Rate : 12.1****Death Rate : 9.26****Births.**

| | | | |
|--|--------|----------|--------|
| (a) Live Births. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Legitimate ... | ... 38 | ... 26 | ... 64 |
| Illegitimate... | ... 3 | ... 0 | ... 3 |
| | | 1937. | 1938. |
| Birth rate (per 1,000 resident population) | ... | 12.3 | 12.1 |
| England and Wales | ... | 14.9 | 15.1 |
| Total Urban (Bucks County) | ... | 15.5 | 15.9 |
| (b) Still Births. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Legitimate ... | ... 1 | ... 0 | ... 1 |
| Illegitimate... | ... 0 | ... 0 | ... 0 |
| Rate per 1,000 total births, 15 | | | |

Deaths.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| | | 1937. | 1938. |
| Total Deaths | | 65 | 51 |
| Death rate (per 1,000 population) | ... | 12 | 9.26 |
| England and Wales | ... | 12.4 | 11.6 |
| Total Urban (Bucks County) | ... | 10.8 | 9.5 |

(a) Deaths from Puerperal causes (*i.e.* No. of women in, or in consequence of, childbirth).

| | Deaths. | Rate per 1,000 total births. |
|---------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| Puerperal Sepsis | 0 | 0 |
| Other Puerperal causes... | 0 | 0 |

(b) Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--|--------|----------|--------|
| 1. Legitimate... | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 2. Illegitimate | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, | 47.0 | | |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, | 0 | | |

| Infantile Mortality. | 1937. | 1938. |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births | 76 | 45 |
| England and Wales | 58 | 53 |
| Total Urban (Bucks County) | 38.7 | 34.6 |

| | Males. | Females. |
|--------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| (c) Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 4 | 6 |
| „ „ Measles „ „ | 0 | 0 |
| „ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... | 0 | 0 |
| „ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... | 0 | 1 |

| (d) Causes of Deaths. | Males. | Females. |
|--|--------|----------|
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | 1 | 1 |
| Cancer... .. | 4 | 6 |
| Diabetes | 1 | 0 |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage ... | 0 | 3 |
| Heart Disease | 9 | 7 |
| Other Circulatory Diseases ... | 1 | 2 |
| Pneumonia | 2 | 0 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases ... | 0 | 1 |

| | Males. | Females. |
|--|--------|----------|
| Appendicitis | 1 | 0 |
| Other Digestive Diseases (not Peptic Ulcer) | 0 | 1 |
| Other Liver Diseases (not Cirrhosis) | 1 | 0 |
| Acute and Chronic Nephritis | 1 | 0 |
| Congenital Causes (Debility, Premature Birth, etc.) ... | 2 | 0 |
| Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... | 0 | 1 |
| Suicide... .. | 1 | 0 |
| Other defined diseases ... | 4 | 1 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Totals ... | 28 | 23 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Grand Total ... | | 51 |
| | | <hr/> |

B. General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

(a) Laboratory facilities.

192 swabs were examined by the Clinical Research Association during the year—as against 42 last year. Most of these were a result of my throat swabbing of classes at the Junior School, in February.

(b) Ambulance facilities.

Sufficient accommodation for general cases continues to be provided by the ambulance under the control of the local Committee of the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

The local Nursing Association continues to provide the town with an efficient home nursing and midwifery service; a Queen's Nurse being stationed in the Old Town.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

An Infant Welfare Clinic, under the control of a local Committee, is held twice monthly at the Old Rectory,

with the attendance, on the first Friday in each month, of myself as Assistant Medical Officer to the County Council, who provide a grant to the Centre. Facilities for the clinic treatment of local school children suffering from orthopædic defects, defective eyesight, enlarged tonsils and adenoids, and defective teeth, are provided at the County Clinic at High Wycombe.

(e) Hospitals.

The general and infectious accommodation is as hitherto. Progress with the new Joint Isolation Hospital at Booker continues, the staff block now nearing completion.

C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(In which section is incorporated particulars from the Sanitary Inspector's Report.)

(a) Water Supply.

As a practical response to advices from the Ministry of Health on the control of water supplies, following the outbreak of typhoid fever at Croydon, the Amersham, Beaconsfield and District Water Co., Ltd., have now undertaken chlorination of the local water supply. They also supply the Council with copies of a monthly report on bacteriological analysis of the water.

(b) Drainage and Sewerage.

This is still carried out by the Dual System. Continuing the policy of the Council, new premises not already connected to the sewer are connected as soon as the sewers are available.

(c) Rivers and Streams.

There are none in the District.

(d) Closet Accommodation.

There are still two or three outlying farms and cottages in the area taken over from the Wycombe Rural

District Council, using the conservancy method ; otherwise the closet system is in general use.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| No. of conversions from conservancy systems to | | | | | | | |
| W.C's | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | None |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| No. of closets still on the conservancy systems, | | | | | | | |
| remaining | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |

(e) Shops.

No action has been taken under the Shops' Act, 1934.

(f) Smoke Abatement.

No action necessary.

(g) Swimming Bath and Pools.

There is one privately owned swimming pool in the district known as "The Bell House" on the London—Oxford Road. This pool has a complete sterilisation and æration plant and is kept in a good state of cleanliness.

(h) Schools.

The sanitary condition and the water supply of the elementary schools in the area continues to be satisfactory.

(i) Sanitary Inspection of the area.

This is most efficiently carried out by Mr. J. H. Crosby, the Council's Sanitary Inspector, whose report I have much pleasure in submitting.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Nuisances.

During the year 14 nuisances have been investigated ; these are chiefly defective drains, cesspools, and deposits of refuse. Considerable assistance is given in this matter by the workmen engaged in refuse collection and cesspool emptying. Each squad gives a daily report into the office in which any matter requiring attention is specially mentioned. It is then investigated, reported, and the necessary action taken.

Sanitary Accommodation.

All houses, except several isolated farms, are provided with water closets.

Refuse Accommodation and Collection.

A weekly collection is maintained with a Dennis 10 cubic yard covered tipping lorry, with driver and three loaders, with assistance, when required, from a 30 cwt. Morris tipping lorry. Owing to a private contractor making a weekly collection of waste paper, the system of collecting Trade Refuse from the shops in the district has decreased. The amount charged is a nominal one ; agreements to date amount to £52 per annum.

To obviate complaints objecting to collection of refuse on warm summer afternoons, refuse is now collected between the hours of 5 a.m. and 2 p.m., during the months of May, June, July and August.

The refuse accommodation is now as follows :—

| | 1935. | 1936. | 1937. | 1938. |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Ashbins | 1,852 | 1,880 | 1,932 | 1,948 |
| Other movable receptacles | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pits | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Refuse Disposal.

Collected refuse is disposed of by dumping under the method known as "controlled tipping" on low-lying land on the London-Oxford Road.

The cost of collection and disposal worked out as follows :—

| | 1936. | 1937. | 1938. |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Total nett cost of service | £946 | £1,050 | £1,133 |
| No. of bins | 1,880 | 1,932 | 1,948 |
| Cost per bin per annum ... | 10/- | 10/10 | 11/7 |
| The number of loads taken to tip | 850 | 870 | 885 |
| The average weight .. | 40 cwt. | 40 cwt. | 40 cwt. |
| Average cost per load of 40 cwt. | 19/10 | 24/2 | 25/6 |
| Cost per ton for collection and disposal | 9/11 | 12/1 | 12/9 |

The increase in cost is due to obtaining soil covering of dumps as required for "Controlled Tipping."

Sewerage.

Disposal Works—North. Holtspur Bottom. (Area, 33.95 acres).

These works consist of screening chamber, detritus chamber, settling and humus tank in duplicate, with two rotary sprinklers; a clear non-smelling effluent is discharged on to land which absorbs it as quickly as it is received. The D.W.F. to these works is still increasing owing to not only new buildings, but because of the large number of houses disconnected from cesspools and put on to the public sewers. The D.W.F. is now 265,000 gallons per day and while the works are giving satisfaction, in the near future it will be necessary to provide an additional sprinkler and re-construct the humus tanks.

Whilst the amount of sludge produced is still increasing, it is still possible to dispose of it for a nominal charge to the local farmers. There is a good demand for dried

sludge which is sold at 6/- per load delivered, and free if collected at the works. There is also a good demand for powdered sludge at 3/6 per bag delivered.

Sales of sludge for the year total £46.

South. Hedgerley Lane. (Area, 26.25 acres).

The sewerage received here is treated by the Broad Irrigation system, with addition of earth detritus tanks and shallow lagoons. The effluent is clear, free of odour, with a low percentage of suspended matter and is easily disposed of by saturation in the land. These works are still in a very satisfactory condition.

Sewering.

During the year both Foul and Surface Water Sewers have been laid in the following streets, under the Private Street Works Act :—

- (1) Burgess Wood Road.
- (2) Ireby Crescent.
- (3) Chiltern Hills Road.
- (4) Cambridge Road.

These works have added an additional mile in length to both the Foul and Surface Water Systems.

Cesspools.

The emptying of cesspools is carried out by the Council's Dennis 500 gallon vacuum machine. The number of cesspools emptied during the year was :—

| | 1936. | 1937. | 1938. |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Cesspools emptied in district | 843 | 693 | 739 |
| do. out of district | 110 | 120 | 95 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total ... | 953 | 813 | 834 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

| | 1936. | 1937. | 1938. |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| No. of loads in district ... | 2,733 | 1,969 | 2,191 |
| do. out of district ... | <u>274</u> | <u>223</u> | <u>194</u> |
| Total ... | <u>3,007</u> | <u>2,192</u> | <u>2,385</u> |

The outside cesspools dealt with are situated in the adjacent Rural Parishes, and owners are charged at a rate of 10/- per hour.

| | 1936. | 1937. | 1938. |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total cost of this service ... | £601 | £615 | £617 |
| Amount received for work outside the district ... | <u>£120</u> | <u>£115</u> | <u>£78</u> |
| Net estimated cost to the Council | <u>£481</u> | <u>£500</u> | <u>£539</u> |

| | 1936. | 1937. | 1938. |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| No. of cesspools emptied in district | 843 | 693 | 739 |
| Cost per cesspool emptying | 11/5 | 13/5 | 14/10 |

Every endeavour is made to empty cesspools in the district within 24 hours of receiving notice.

Building Development.

The following statement shews the building development during the year :—

| | |
|--|----|
| Plans submitted..... | 81 |
| New houses completed during the year (private enterprise) | 48 |
| Houses in course of erection | 7 |
| Other building works, including alterations, additions and garages completed during the year | 54 |
| Other buildings in course of erection..... | 18 |

Council Housing.

Malthouse Square (1919) Scheme comprises 52 cottages of the parlour type with three bedrooms, and are let at an inclusive rent of 16/- per week 52

Ronald Road Scheme comprises 22 cottages of the non-parlour type, and are let at an inclusive rent of 13/6 per week 22

Amersham Road Estate comprises an area of $13\frac{3}{4}$ acres, and is laid out for 108 non-parlour type cottages and 16 parlour. These are split up into three sections :—

No. 1, Waller Road, 36 non-parlour and 4 parlour type (completed and occupied) 40

No. 2, Hyde Green, 36 non-parlour and 8 parlour type (completed and occupied) 44

No. 3, Maxwell Road, 36 non-parlour and 4 parlour type (completed and occupied) 40

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The inclusive rental of the non-parlour type is 16/-, plus 1/- standard charge for electricity, which allows the tenants a supply at the rate of 1d. per unit. Parlour type 19/-, plus 1/- electricity charge.

Repairs. All repairs are now carried out by direct labour, a plumber and a mate being employed for this purpose, with additional assistance when required.

Distemper and paint are supplied to tenants who are willing to apply the material.

Malthouse Square Estate.

The Council have, during the year, installed electric light in these 52 houses.

Fernhurst Site.

The Council have received sanction for the erection of 26 three-bedroom non-parlour type houses on this site.

Housing Inspection.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year :—*

- | | | |
|---------|--|-----|
| (1) (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 6 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 12 |
| (2) (a) | Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 | 6 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | 6 |
| (3) | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | Nil |
| (4) | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... | 6 |

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers | 6 |
|---|---|

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a)—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 : | |
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice : | |
| (a) By owners | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 4 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) By owners | 4 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners..... | Nil |

(c)—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil |

(d)—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.*

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 3 |
| (2) Number of families living therein..... | 3 |
| (3) Number of persons dwelling therein..... | 19 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | Nil |
| (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | Nil |
| (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases | Nil |

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report Nil

D. Housing.

This information is given in the appropriate section of the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

I have nothing to add to my statement under this heading in last year's report—improvement being gradual and continued.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

There are three licensed slaughterhouses in the district, but very little killing is done and this chiefly of pigs. The standard of meat sold is high, all shops being of good class family butcher type. There have been two cases where suspected meat has been surrendered. These are (1) 10 lbs. imported kidneys due to damaged tin, and (2) 10 lbs. liver.

(c) Adulterations.

No action has been taken under the appropriate Acts and Regulations in regard to the adulteration of foods.

F. Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

There is a considerable increase in the number of Infectious Diseases notified during the year, though the numbers are not large. The diphtheria occurred in February (3) and in June (3), the latter cases being from

the Children's Convalescent Home. All the scarlet fever cases and two of the diphtheria cases were removed to the Booker Isolation Hospital.

| | 1937. | | | | 1938. | |
|----------------|-------|-----|-----|---|-------|---|
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 7 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | 0 | ... | 6 |
| Erysipelas ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | ... | 1 |

Notifiable Diseases.

| Disease. | Cases notified. | Cases admitted to Booker Isolation Hospital. | | | Total Deaths. |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|---|-----|---------------|
| Scarlet Fever ... | 7 | ... | 6 | ... | 0 |
| Diphtheria ... | 6 | ... | 2 | ... | 0 |
| Erysipelas ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | 0 |

Age Groups.

| Disease | 1—2 | 2—3 | 3—4 | 4—5 | 5—10 | 10—15 | over 15 |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|----------------|
| Scarlet Fever | | 1 | | | 3 | 3 | |
| Diphtheria | | | 1 | 1 | 4 | | |
| Erysipelas | | | | | | | 1 (over 65) |

Tuberculosis.

There have been no new cases notified during the year. Two deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis have occurred from among the notified cases.

New cases and mortality during 1938.

| New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----|-----------------|-------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| Age Periods | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M. | F. | | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Under 1 year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 1—5 years | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 5—15 „ | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 15—25 „ | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 25—35 „ | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 35—45 „ | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 45—55 „ | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... |
| 55—65 „ | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... |
| Over 65 years | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

G. Cancer.

There have been 10 deaths from Cancer during the year.

| Age Group. | | | | M. | F. |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 0—45 years | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... |
| 45—55 | „ | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| 55—65 | „ | ... | ... | 1 | 2 |
| 65—75 | „ | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 75—85 | „ | ... | ... | 1 | 2 |
| Over 85 | „ | ... | ... | — | — |
| Total ... | | | | 4 | 6 |
| | | | | — | — |

